

August 27, 2002

Congressman Akin Commends Town and Country Police and FBI For
Establishing Regional Threat Warning System
Warning System is result of Post-September 11th meeting of local law enforcement

St. Louis, Mo.- On Thursday, August 29, Congressman Todd Akin, Town and Country Chief of Police John Copeland, and FBI Acting Special Agent in Charge Keith Lourdeau will hold a press conference to unveil the Regional Threat Warning System. The conference will be held at Town and Country City Hall, 1011 Municipal Center Drive at 2 p.m. Central Time. Developed by Chief Copeland and the St. Louis Office of the FBI, the system disseminates threat information to local and state law enforcement agencies.

The Regional Threat warning system will deliver important national and local security threat information quickly and efficiently to all law enforcement agencies within the region. Chief Copeland and the St. Louis Office of the FBI developed the system after a regional meeting of federal, state and local law enforcement agencies last October. The Post-September 11th meeting was initiated by Chief Copeland and facilitated by Congressman Akin and sought to address the coordination of law enforcement efforts regarding homeland security as it relates to local law enforcement, especially the timely dissemination of relevant homeland security information.

"I have met numerous times with law enforcement and other first responders since the September terrorist attacks and communication has consistently been a key issue," said Akin. "I am very pleased that Chief Copeland and the St. Louis Office of the FBI have taken suggestions from one of our first meetings and have initiated a system that will have a real-world impact for our law enforcement agencies."

"St. Louis area law enforcement and the FBI have always had an excellent relationship and the Regional Threat Warning System is another example of how our cooperation better serves our community," said Acting Special Agent in Charge Lourdeau.

"It didn't take long after the events of 9/11 to realize the valuable role local law enforcement could play in the security of our great Nation," said Chief Copeland. "The Regional Threat Warning System is a great example of how local, state, and federal law enforcement can effectively work together to help ensure the security of our homeland."

The FBI will distribute urgent threat information to Police Chiefs and Sheriffs in the St. Louis area via email, while the Town and Country Police Department will use a computerized emergency notification system to contact area law enforcement agencies communications centers. Chiefs of Police, Division Commanders and Sheriffs will be notified by the communications centers that a message has been sent and needs to be accessed.

The system will distinguish between three levels of urgency. Depending on the threat information received, it will be assigned the threat level of low, elevated or priority.

